



Non-GEMA Administered State and Federal Assistance Programs

A variety of state and federal assistance is available to communities in the wake of a disaster, even if the magnitude and the severity of a disaster do not qualify for a federal disaster declaration. These include:

- The Governor may declare a State of Emergency. This enables state personnel and equipment to be available to local governments for response and recovery activities. It also automatically enacts the state's price gouging statute.
- The Governor may ask for a disaster declaration from the U.S. Small Business Administration. The SBA can provide low-interest loans to homeowners, renters and businesses affected by the disaster, even if it is not a presidentially declared disaster.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) issues emergency assistance through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. This assists communities with projects such as debris removal, erosion control and repair of bridges and culverts.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may assist in responding to flood emergencies. This can include technical assistance, flood fighting and rescue operations, or rehabilitation of federal and certain non-federal flood control works damaged or destroyed by floods.
- The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration may repair federal-aid highways and roads damaged by natural disasters or catastrophic failures.
- The Governor can request assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Qualified farm operators are eligible for low-interest emergency loans for production losses and crop losses through the FSA's Federal Emergency Loan Program.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Emergency Food Assistance Program helps supplement the diets of low-income Americans, including the elderly, by providing them with emergency food and nutrition assistance at no cost.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provides services that link individuals to emergency food and shelter, temporary financial assistance, transportation, legal assistance, health care, including mental health care and counseling, employment, and other public assistance.